

Starving Your Dog or Cat Is Against the Law . . .

*This is
very
SAD.*

If the average person decided to withhold food from their dog or cat for days or weeks, that person would probably be charged with cruelty to animals and the media would take the story and run with it. Yet, each year the egg industry intentionally deprives millions of hens of all food for up to 14 days. But the cameras aren't rolling and no one is going to jail.

The U.S. egg industry force molts - intentionally starves - entire flocks to manipulate their metabolism, forcing exhausted hens to produce a few hundred more eggs before going to slaughter.



During the forced molt, hungry hens peck desperately at empty metal food trays. They are driven to pluck and eat each others' feathers to obtain nutrients. Denuded of feathers and deranged by fear, they lose up to 35 percent of their body weight. Countless hens die from the stress.

Forced molting is so stressful it increases bone breakage and impairs the hens' immune system, predisposing the birds and their eggs to Salmonella infection. USDA immunol-

ogist Peter Holt reports, "Molting, in combination with an SE (Salmonella enteritidis) infection, created an actual disease state in the alimentary tract of affected hens."

**Please fill in and mail the coupon
below to the Food and Drug
Administration (FDA).**

Dear FDA,

Forced molting of hens used in egg production is cruel to the birds and increases the spread of Salmonella enteritidis infection. Please grant the petition, filed under docket #98P-0203/CP, that would eliminate this practice.

Signed Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Sleet

Address 13815 Crumplegate Rd.

City, State, Zip Phoenix, Md 21131

Send to: Dockets Management Branch, Food & Drug Administration, Dept. of Health & Human Services, 12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 1-23, Rockville, MD 20857.

**Farm animals need your help. For more information and to
find out what you can do, contact United Poultry Concerns,
P.O. Box 150, Machipongo, VA 23405 (757-678-7875).**

98P-0203



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New York State Residents

Are you a licensed driver who registers a vehicle in New York State? Are you interested in helping stem the tide of companion animal overpopulation?

The "Love Your Pet" distinctive license plate — featuring ASPCA Spokescharacters Fremont and Purrzilla — helps fund the state animal population control program launched in 1996 with the help of The ASPCA. Under this program, state residents who adopt a dog or cat from a pound, shelter or humane society in New York can have the animal spayed or neutered for only \$30.

The plates are available from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Initial cost: \$34.50
Annual renewals: \$25

\$20 of the fee is deposited directly into the population control fund. The more money in the fund, the more animals spayed/neutered. Help promote this important program by purchasing your animal friendly license plate today! To order, visit your local DMV.

Or call
1-800-364-PLATES



We've Got Mail!

MEATY MATTERS

I'm sure I wasn't the only reader struck by the issues that surface when you compare "Saving Grace" and "It's Dinnertime!" (Fall 1998, pp. 27 and 46, respectively). The former advocates lessening the suffering of animals by eliminating animal products from our human diet. The latter tells us that owners of pets who "try to do what is best for them" are increasing their purchases of premium and superpremium pet food — food which contains more meat.

While many animal advocates/pet owners resolve this dilemma by buying vegetarian pet food, most do not, due to expense, lack of availability, or the belief that their pets will suffer. Your magazine itself has informed readers that cats must have meat.

Pet owners who do buy meat products for their pets need to face squarely their influence on agribusiness and factory farming. Their support amounts to billions of dollars in annual profits for these industries. Pet owners who buy meat need to realize that their actions favor a select group of animals by helping cause the suffering and death of other animals who through fate do not happen to be their companions.

Nancy S. Breslin, Trinidad, CA

I was surprised to see Boston Market promoted in your Winter 1998 issue (Tricom Pictures advertisement, p. 7), since this business does not coincide with The ASPCA's message.

Victoria Blaess, Howell, NY

Editor's Note: One of our biggest struggles is to balance the conundrums inherent in our relationships with all animals. Factors that are clear philosophically rarely are so in the realities of everyday life.

FOUL PLAY

After reading Political Foul Play (Washington Beat, p. 54, Fall 1998), I wrote to my Representatives in Congress. I received a reply from Rep. Patsy Mink (D-HI) explaining why she and

Rep. Neil Abercrombie (D-HI) reversed their votes and said "No" to the Bass/DeFazio amendment.

Rep. Mink states that the amendment would have cut funding for the brown tree snake control program. This snake proliferated wildly in Guam since its inadvertent introduction there about 50 years ago. It decimated the land bird population, has killed puppies, kittens and chickens and attacked dozens of infants in their cribs. Some six or seven of these snakes have turned up in Hawaii, where we have a very fragile island ecosystem with many endangered species of birds, plants and invertebrate animals. If this snake gets a foothold here, we will have a "silent spring" just like Guam. Native predators belong in their native ecosystems, but this alien predator does not.

Diane Trembly, Keaau, HI

Nancy Blaney, Director, ASPCA Federal Government Affairs, responds: In working to defeat the Bass/DeFazio amendment, state agriculture departments and the U.S. Department of Agriculture unfortunately engaged in a campaign of scare tactics and mis-information about the effect this amendment would have had. In fact, the amendment would not have cut funding for the brown tree snake control program in Hawaii. However, because the brown tree snake poses such a serious threat to their state, Reps. Abercrombie and Mink voted against the amendment on the off-chance that, even inadvertently, the program's funding would be curtailed.

HAPPY RETURNS

Thank you for selecting my photograph as a winner in your recent contest (Growing Old Gracefully, p. 38, Winter 1998). It was a wonderful holiday surprise that I shall always cherish.

I wish to donate my \$100 prize back to The ASPCA. My mother-in-law, Phyllis, who is featured in the photo, died last year. She loved and cared for